

RETRACTABLE FULL HEIGHT COVER FOR VEHICLES

S/N: 10/695541 Filed 10/28/2003

Amendment Prior to Examination and First Office Action

Claim Amendments

What I claim is:

1. (Currently amended) In an improved vehicle aft ~~[[end]]~~ portion cover for vehicles the improvement comprising:
a height of said vehicle aft portion cover of substantially a height of a passenger cab portion of the vehicle and disposed, at least primarily, aft of a passenger cab portion of the vehicle and said vehicle aft portion cover retractable to thereby render an aft portion of said vehicle open over at least a portion of its length.
2. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein retraction of the vehicle aft portion cover renders said vehicle's aft portion open over at least thirty percent of its length.
3. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein retraction of the vehicle aft portion cover renders said vehicle's aft portion open over at least forty percent of its length.
4. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein retraction of the vehicle aft portion cover renders said vehicle's aft portion open over at least fifty percent of its length.

5. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein retraction of the vehicle aft portion cover renders said vehicle's aft portion open over at least sixty percent of its length.
6. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein retraction of the vehicle aft portion cover renders said vehicle's aft portion open over at least seventy percent of its length.
7. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein said vehicle aft portion cover is comprised of two or more vehicle aft portion cover elements.
8. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein said vehicle aft portion cover is comprised of three vehicle aft portion cover elements.
9. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein said vehicle aft portion cover is comprised of four vehicle aft portion cover elements.
10. (original) The improved vehicle aft end cover of claim 1 wherein a first vehicle aft end cover element is fixedly attached to the vehicle.
11. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 10 wherein said first vehicle aft portion cover element adjacent to the passenger cab of the vehicle is enclosed on its forward end and its sides.
12. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein a first vehicle aft portion cover element is a continuation of the vehicle's passenger cab.

13. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein one or more of the vehicle's aft portion cover elements slide aft to effect a covered closure of the aft portion of the vehicle.
14. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein one or more of the vehicle's aft portion cover elements slide forward to effect an open aft portion of the vehicle.
15. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein, when extended aft, said vehicle aft portion cover is lockable to an aft tailgate of the vehicle.
16. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 which further comprises a stoplight affixed to a vehicle first aft portion cover element.
17. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 which further comprises a stoplight affixed proximal an aft portion of a rearmost vehicle aft portion cover element as seen with the vehicle aft portion cover extended rearward.
18. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 which further comprises a stoplight affixed proximal an aft portion of an aft tailgate of the vehicle.
19. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein elements of said vehicle aft portion cover slide in tracks disposed either side of the vehicle.
20. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 19 wherein said tracks include rolling elements.

21. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 20 wherein said rolling elements are ball bearings.
22. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 20 wherein said rolling elements are roller bearings.
23. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein elements of said vehicle aft portion cover have upward turning seal portions to prevent water from entering when said vehicle aft portion cover elements are extended aft.
24. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 23 wherein seal portions disposed between elements of said vehicle aft portion cover may include a seal element that is compressible.
25. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 which further includes a first tailgate disposed, at least in its majority, between the passenger cab portion of the vehicle and the aft portion of the vehicle.
26. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein said first tailgate includes a window that is at least primarily retractable into said first tailgate.
27. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein said first tailgate can rotate aft to thereby open up the passenger cab portion of the vehicle to the aft portion of the vehicle.
28. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 wherein, when rotated aft, said first tailgate fits into a recess disposed in a floor of the vehicle.

29. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 1 where said vehicle further includes an aft tailgate.
30. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 29 wherein said aft tailgate includes a window that is retractable.
31. (original) In an improved vehicle aft portion cover for aft portions of the vehicle the improvement comprising:
said vehicle aft portion cover of substantially a height of a passenger cab portion of the vehicle and retractable, at least in part, into the passenger cab portion of the vehicle to thereby render an aft portion of said vehicle open over at least a portion of its length.
32. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 31 which further includes a first tailgate disposed between the passenger cab and the aft portion of the vehicle.
33. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 32 wherein said first tailgate includes a retractable window.
34. (original) The improved vehicle aft portion cover of claim 31 which further includes an aft tailgate and wherein said aft tailgate includes a retractable window.
35. (original) In an improved vehicle aft portion cover for aft portions of a vehicle the improvement comprising:
said vehicle aft portion cover of substantially a height of a passenger cab portion of the vehicle and comprised of one or more retractable vehicle aft portion cover elements to thereby, when said vehicle aft portion cover

elements are retracted, render said vehicle aft portion open over at least a portion of its length and which further includes a tailgate disposed proximal and aft end of the vehicle aft portion.